

58. My Government are aware of the limited coverage of National Highways in the State and will continue their efforts with Government of India to include three more roads namely M. C. Road, the Cochin-Madurai and Calicut-Bangalore road under the National Highway System.

59. In the field of transport, the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation and the Kerala Water Transport Department have been facing problems. My Government will make earnest attempts to reorganise the administration of these agencies and make their services more effective in the service of the travelling public.

60. The Housing problem in the State is an acute one where the demand is fast outstepping availability. Over the years, a systematic attack on the problem has been made considering the needs of different target groups in the population of the State. The efforts visualised by my Government in the days to come are essentially for consolidating the on-going schemes and for initiating some new starts. My Government would like to place the accent on the Rental Housing Scheme for the Government Employees which has started its operation recently and the housing scheme for the rural poor.

61. Under Urban Development and Town Planning, it will be the endeavour of my Government to improve the district headquarters and the small and medium towns. In addition to the formation of Development authorities for Quilon, Kottayam and Trichur, one more development Authority for Palghat will be created this year. Under the centrally sponsored scheme for the development of small and medium towns, Malappuram will also be taken up in addition to the eight towns already assisted. Slum clearance will receive high priority.

62. Under Social Welfare, the schemes for the disabled and physically handicapped will be pursued vigorously even though the International Year of the disabled is over. Steps will be taken to establish the Institute for Research, Education and Rehabilitation of the mentally retarded.

63. My Government propose to accord high priority to the modernisation of the Police force in the State. More men, vehicles, buildings and other facilities will be provided to the police force in the course of the plan period. My Government will try to carve out an image for the Kerala Police as an efficient and disciplined arm of the Government, determined to help the law abiding common man and committed to the rule of law.

64. My Government is fully aware of the various kinds of difficulties encountered by the Policemen in the discharge of their duties. My Government propose to take suitable steps to remove as much of those difficulties as possible.

65. The housing needs of the Policemen will be given more attention and suitable steps will be taken to provide more houses and quarters. The Police Housing Co-operative Society, started to help Policemen to build their own houses, will soon start functioning and it will be strengthened step by step.

2/2072/B.